THE CONCORDIA
MESSENGER
A JOURNALISM STUDENTS' PUBLICATION

Localizing Global Issues

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ABOUT THE MESSENGER

The Concordia Messenger is dedicated to providing the Concordia University community with fair, accurate coverage, and a fresh perspective on events, people, and issues.
We aim to make news stories tangible and relevant to readers.
We hope to provide all Concordia journalism students with an outlet for their writing, editing, and layout talents.

The Concordia Messenger is a Concordia Journalism Department publication.
It is produced monthly by journalism students from Concordia University - 7141 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, Quebec, H4B 1R6.
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The opinions expressed in editorials, reviews, comments, and letters reflect the ideas of the authors alone.
They do not necessarily reflect those of The Concordia Messenger staff or the Concordia Journalism Department.

Submissions will be accepted in English and French.
Due to the nature of our funding, we can only accept submissions from Concordia journalism students, but suggestions, comments, and letters to the editor are welcome from everyone.
Submissions and letters to the editor must be signed, and include a phone number.
We reserve the right to edit letters and submissions for space considerations.
Editors will be sensitive to preserving the spirit of all submissions.

The times and dates for staff meetings will be posted on the third floor of the Bryan building (Loyola Campus).
Deadline for submissions for the next issue of The Concordia Messenger is March 16, 1993 at 4:00 p.m.

Special thanks to The Stanstead Journal for the use of their printer.

The Messenger staff

Concordia kicks butts

Yet smokers drag on

BY OWEN EGAN

Photo by Owen Egan

A burning issue: The only question for the university is how they are going to enforce their new non-smoking policy.

"We're in the middle of a card game," one man growls.

"I'm not in the mood to talk about it," says another, without looking up from his book.

Concordia's die-hard smokers are not a cheery lot these days.

On Jan.1, 1993, Concordia instituted a new policy that designates the entire university smoke-free.

But in the Hall building cafeteria on a recent Friday afternoon, seven of nine occupied tables were still graced by at least one smoker. And once their card games ended, some smokers were happy to offer their opinions on the new policy.

"It sucks," said one.

"Sucks."

"Sucks."

"Sucks," said the fourth card player, and it was unanimous.

Assistant to the vice-rector of services Shirley Maynes wasn't surprised. She is responsible for putting the new non-smoking policy into effect. Maynes said she knows some smokers will be unhappy about getting their nicotine fixes out in the February cold.

But she justified the new policy, saying that eliminating the few remaining smoking-rooms, and their air filtration systems, will benefit the university and its students.

"We needed the space, we really couldn't afford to maintain the air filters, and we think that as a progressive institution we should be setting a good example."

Enjoying a smoke in the Hall Building cafeteria, student Mike Jabbour is unimpressed with such arguments.

"We're smoking more than before -- nothing's going to stop us," he said, smiling.

Others at the table added that smokers have rights, and that the university has a responsibility to provide for their needs as well as those of non-smokers.

But the new policy isn't open to debate. The only remaining question is how it will be enforced. Security guards now ask smokers either to butt out or smoke outside.

For the time being, though, the administration is emphasizing education, said Maynes. Ads explaining the new non-smoking rule will run in the Thursday Report and the student press, she said.

Despite smokers' protestations, Maynes said she is confident smoking will leave Concordia's buildings the same gradual way it has left classrooms, banks and hospitals over the years.

"It will happen," she said. "It's just going to take a while."

A DIFFERENT KIND OF FAMILY REUNION

New group offers hope for Adoptees In Search of...

BY BOB KIRNER

A new group dedicated to helping adopted people find their biological families has formed in Montreal.

Pearl Manic, 27, founder of Adoptees in Search of..., said personal experience, and stories from adopted people searching for their families, convinced her that people needed the service.

"Many adopted people feel a lot of what's going on in their lives is related to being adopted," she said. "A lot of people are turned off by long waiting lists [at social service agencies] and by not getting anywhere in their searches."

Photo by Bob Kirner

Pearl Manic

Manic is not adopted, but her husband is. When the couple wanted to have a child, they requested updated medical information about her husband's biological mother. The social service agency told them they could wait ten years or longer for an answer.

There have been 22,000 registered searches for biological families in Canada since 1988

Manic said she wrote letters to her MNA, contacted lawyers and doctors, placed personal newspaper ads and appeared on the television show Fighting Back to organize adoptees fighting for freer access to adoption files.

She still bristles at the reply from officials of Quebec's Ministry of Social Services.

"The government told me adoptees should basically forget where they come from and get on with their lives," Manic said.

She said nobody could offer any help, but the response from adoptees answering her ads was good enough to get her "moving on her own."

She contacted interested adoptees to form a group. Even though the group is only one month old, Manic said the response is encouraging.

"Over 50 people have responded to my posters already."

Manic said there is a $50 registration fee to open a file, and a $10 maintenance fee. She doesn't charge for her time.

In return, she prints posters with the adoptees' name, date and hospital of birth, and any information she is given on the biological relative being sought. The posters are distributed around the city. If an adoptee can supply her with a family name or more information, Manic said she will search for the family and establish first contact.

Manic said she envisions a national search network someday, and hopes to run ads in an adoptees' section of a nationally-distributed newspaper.

She has already arranged two reunions. "Both turned out very happy," she said.

"I just find it so fulfilling to know people are finally finding a way. I hope one day we find my husband's mom. I know that would be the happiest day of my husband's life."

For more information call Adoptees in Search of..., at 484-5882.

Photo by Owen Egan

Flags flew at half mast to mourn Jeanne Sauvé's death

Concordia seeks Chancellor

BY LISA ARIEMMA

Jeanne Sauvé, the Chancellor of Concordia University, died last month.

While many students can describe the nature of her duties as a Member of Parliament, Speaker of the House, and Governor-General, few know that her duties as Governor-General were very similar to the responsibilities she fulfilled as our university's Chancellor.

"The Chancellor is the titular head of the university in the same way as the monarch or Governor-General is head of the country," said Ken Wittingham, director of public relations at Concordia.

Concordia Rector Patrick Kenniff acts as the Prime Minister of the university and deals with day-to-day issues, and the Board of Governors functions as the parliament.

"They [Chancellors] have no power or all power," said Wittingham.

One role of the Chancellor is to offer counsel to the rector in much the same way that the British Prime Minister receives weekly counsel from the Queen.

In addition, the Chancellor is an automatic member of the Board of Governors and sits on various committees. He or she also has legal signing powers. However, authority to sign documents on a day-to-day basis is automatically transferred to the Rector, who is also the Vice-Chancellor.

The only occasion students at Concordia have to interact with the Chancellor is during convocation. The Chancellor presides over the ceremony, and signs all the degrees granted.

"It is in the name of the Chancellor," said Wittingham, "that the university gives degrees."

Amely Jurgenliemk, assistant to the Secretary General, said the Chancellor is also a liaison between various institutions and governments.

"The Chancellor is essential to the identity of the [university] institution in the public eye," she said.

If a major institution opens up in Montreal, for example, the Chancellor will receive an invitation to the inauguration as a representative of the university. Similarly, he or she will receive invitations to various ceremonies.

One of the more unusual letters a Concordia Chancellor received came from a representative of a fundamentalist movement in Iran.

"It called for submissions for the design of a bridge over important real estate in Iran," said Jurgenliemk.

She said the Chancellor often receives mail that should be directed elsewhere, such as to the university ombudsman.

Sauvé was the first Concordia Chancellor unable to finish her term. While the search for a new Chancellor continues, Rector Kenniff has assumed all of her previous responsibilities.

A new committee is being formed to find someone to fill the unpaid, five-year position. The new Chancellor must have strong leadership skills, be an effective public speaker, and be distinguished in his or her field. Advertisments will be placed in Montreal and campus newspapers.

Single mother fights for improved child support

Petition says Enough is Enough—government gets tough on parents who don't pay

BY SANDRA BLAIKIE

Diane Marcil has decided enough is enough and plans to tell the Quebec Minister of Justice this month.

The divorced mother of two has circulated a petition for the past year to garner support for Enough is Enough, a non-profit group she founded to fight for better enforcement of the province's child-support laws by the Justice Ministry. She has collected 10,000 signatures so far.

"I am at war," said the CEGEP teacher from her home in Lorraine, 60 km north of Montreal. "I was a victim of the system, but now I've become a predator."

Marcil also wants the federal government to stop charging income tax on child-support payments.

She has fought her former husband for the past five years for child support payments he agreed to make for their teenage sons.

"I've paid $22,000 in lawyers' fees and I finally couldn't afford to take it any further," she said. "And I'm certainly not the only one."

PARENTS ON THE RUN

Marcil said a woman in her group has been asked to pay income tax on thousands of dollars in child support she hasn't received from her husband for six years.

Most divorced fathers in Quebec don't make their payments, said Marcil.

A 1987 study by the Justice Ministry showed 36.5 per cent of divorced fathers either fail to pay child support, or pay only part of it.

Quebec's Civil Code was amended in 1982 to establish both parents' obligation to provide life necessities like food and clothing to children.

Marcil said it takes three months for a court hearing after filing a complaint for non-payment of child support.

Justice Ministry spokesperson Thérèse Mailloux said there are delays, but more than three-quarters of women who file complaints eventually recover their money.

Marcil's former husband got a 10-day notice before an investigator showed up at his door. That was "long enough for him to get his story straight and make his bank book look convincing," she said.

A public collector can be asked to seize the income of the defaulting parent.

But many men stash their money in the bank accounts of relatives and friends, declare bankruptcy, or leave the country, Marcil said.

But Ken, a divorced father of two, objected to Marcil's argument. "Any men I know in this situation who have declared bankruptcy have done it because they honestly didn't have the money."

TAXING CHILDREN

Marcil said the Federal Income Tax Act, which taxes child-support payments, contradicts the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Under Article 56 of the Act, custodial parents must claim child support payments as taxable income. The parent making the payments claims them as deductions.

"The money is taken away from the children and given back to the father," she said. "So the $100 per week in child support, for example, becomes $60 after taxes. And part of it will go right back to the father. It's immoral."

Marcil encourages women to refuse to pay the tax, but warned the cost of filing a refusal is $20.

"The refusal is usually denied," said Marcil. "But at the very least we're jamming up the bureaucracy and making them work."

Marcil said she hopes she can help others fighting for child-support payments.

"It's time we stood up and told the government 'No–enough is enough'."

Helping Hands

BY RONALD ZAJAC

While donations piled up at the Bosnia & Herzegovina Help Association's office, Fatima Osmancevic found time last month to greet two of Canada's newest guests.

Harudin, 26, and Fahrudin, 42, imprisoned in a Serb-run detention camp at Manjaca in Bosnia-Herzegovina until last November, arrived in Canada Jan. 23 with 43 other Bosnian Muslims. The two men were released from their camp in November, but were told to leave the country as part of the Serbs' campaign of "ethnic cleansing."

Harudin and Fahrudin have since become landed immigrants, and requested only their first names be used for fear of endangering the lives of their families in Bosnia.

When Osmancevic heard the pair were in Montreal, she invited them to her house.

Fahrudin comes from Osmancevic's home town. "When he told me he was from Sanski Most," she said, "I couldn't wait to see him."

Harudin and Fahrudin spent more than seven months in Serb-run detention camps, where they endured beatings and starvation, said Osmancevic, who spoke on their behalf. Neither one speaks English.

"They were not even allowed to go to the bathroom, unless they had money," she said. "If they asked, they got beaten."

Before being moved to Manjaca, Harudin was held at another camp at Omarska, where he said he saw 1,800 prisoners either tortured or killed. Some were chopped up with knives, he said.

They emigrated to Canada with the help of Canadian diplomats.

The two said they hope to become Canadian citizens soon and plan to take French lessons.

When asked how he finds Canada, Fahrudin gave a thumbs-up.

Time line

- **Before 1991:** Yugoslavia used to consist of six republics: Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- **Jun. 1991:** Croatia and Slovenia declare independence
- **Sept. 1991:** Macedonians declare independence
- **Mar. 1992:** Bosnians declare independence
- Serbia and Montenegro now make up Yugoslavia.
- Bosnia-Herzegovina's three main ethnic groups:
Serbs (31.4%)
Croats (17.3%)
Slavic Muslims (43.7%).
- Bosnian majority vote for independence. Bosnian Serbs largely oppose the move.
- **April 1992:** the conflict turns into a civil war. Bosnian Serbs fight Croats and Muslims with help from the Serbian republic.

Photo by Owen Egan

Fatima Osmancevic packs clothes for Bosnian refugees in Croatia

Montrealers aid Bosnians

BY RONALD ZAJAC

Fatima Osmancevic's office in Town of Mount Royal is cluttered with clothes, which she and two colleagues stuff into boxes.

The clothes åare for Bosnian refugees in Croatia and the office belongs to the Bosnia & Herzegovina Help Association, which Osmancevic started in September to aid the women and children of her war-torn former homeland, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

About 18,000 people have been killed in the country's 10-month-old civil war, according to western media reports. But Osmancevic said the death-toll is higher: more than 138,000.

"We have lots of clothes," she said. "We don't know what to do with them. [We need] just food and medicine. And money—the [cargo] container costs a lot of money to ship."

Osmancevic's group sent two shipments of clothes, worth about $80,000 each, last November and December to Bosnian refugees in Croatia. They plan to send a smaller load on February 19.

The group also wants to start a program to help Canadians sponsor Bosnian children, like the Care organization does for Third World children.

"What I would like is to sponsor some kids there, for a year, at $50 per month," she said. "They would send you a picture and send you their address, everything."

About half of the group's 40 members are Bosnian Muslims. The other half are Muslims of Arabic or Asian descent, whom Osmancevic calls "brothers and sisters."

Osmancevic said she is worried about the children of Bosnian women who have been raped by Serbian forces. The Bosnian government claims up to 50,000 women have been raped, resulting in 30,000 unwanted pregnancies. And a European Community fact-finding group reported in January that Serb fighters had raped about 20,000 Bosnian women.

"Nobody believed it," Osmancevic said, adding the rapes have occurred since the war began in April. "And now journalists go there, and they see what is going on."

Newsweek recently interviewed women who say they were raped by Serbian fighters.

Osmancevic would like to help Canadians adopt the children of Bosnian rape victims. "There are so many kids born in Croatia, their mothers don't want them," she says.

"Canada should open the door to those women and kids," she added.

The war hasn't spared Osmancevic's family. She said her home town, Sanski Most, no longer exists. One of her sisters still lives in the ruins of the town, and another, whose husband was killed by Serbs, remains in the village of Kevo.

"You get used to it, when you hear these things for a whole year," she said of the past year's torrent of bad news. So far, the war has claimed 14 of her relatives.

The Association's office is located at 1255 Laird Boulevard, Suite 165 - 739-1336

Editorial

Human Rights and the Immorality of Silence

We look at foreign news the same way we look at our neighbors. Sometimes, we look with interest or suspicion, but usually with indifference. Often, we don't know about our neighbor's past and don't really care about their future.

Violence in Bosnia, Somalia, and around the world threatens that which all people share: the right to life and to human dignity. Beyond all of our apparent differences lies human solidarity.

Being aware of foreign news and discovering a local angle is one way to show that solidarity.

But to know and remain silent is immoral. Raising our voices can influence our own government to stand up for human rights. Our silence means, "We don't care, sister. Your life and death mean nothing."

We have a duty to ensure Canadian foreign policy takes violations of human rights seriously, even when they are committed by our allies. A politician's position on foreign policy must be an important part of his platform.

Canadians are known as excellent peacekeepers, but keeping the peace in a ar-torn country is not enough. Our nation must raise its voice to promote international peace and respect for human rights.

The United Nations has the power to intervene when one state commits an act of aggression against another. But when a government persecutes its citizens, the UN charter does not treat it as an act of aggression.

Our society's respect for human rights has grown since the end of the Second World War. Domestic violence, once considered acceptable in the home, is no longer tolerated.

International law must also take this step. A violation of human rights should be considered an act of aggression. The UN must step in and protect those human rights.

Of course, the United Nations must establish guidelines for intervention in the case of repeated life-threatening violations of human rights. Strong economic and political sanctions must be imposed against violators of human rights before any military intervention can take place. Countries that do not participate in boycotts should be condemned by the international community.

UN intervention in internal affairs won't be welcomed by most states, and military intervention requires a strong commitment to the protection of human rights. But we must remember that, not so long ago, millions of people died in Nazi death camps because of the world's indifference and silence.

Must History repeat itself?

Jeanne Cadorette

REFUGEES

Immigration toughens up on claimants

BY LISA ARIEMMA

The number of refugees entering Canada is increasing dramatically, and the federal government is responding with a new immigration law, C-86, to be implemented this month.

"Each time the system is replaced because we can't handle the numbers," said Robert Monserrat, assistant director of the Quebec region refugee board, which includes Quebec, the Atlantic provinces and the Ottawa area.

The region is the second most popular destination for refugee claimants after the region of Ontario.

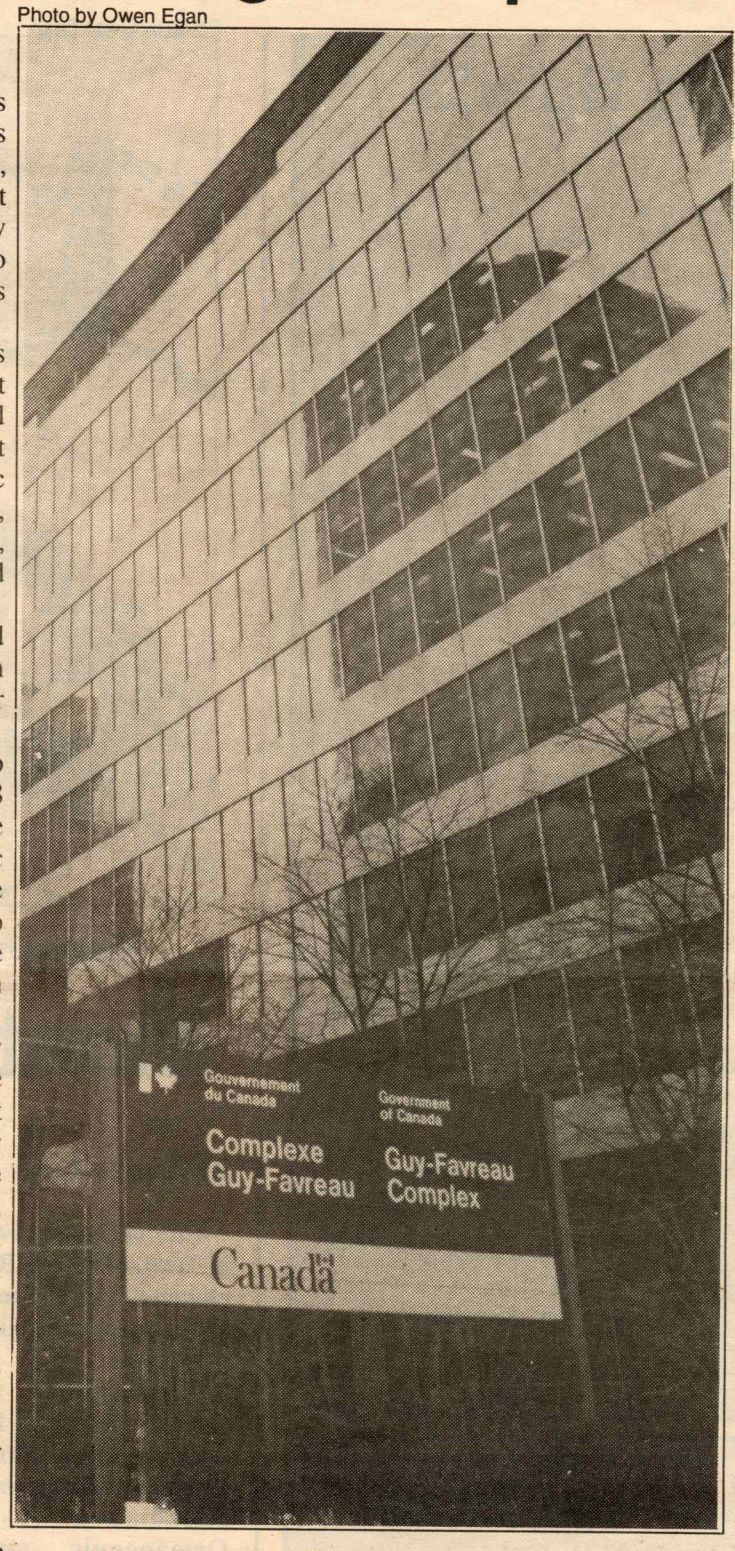
From January to September 1992, 8,138 refugee hearings were completed in the Quebec region. By December the number had increased to 10,773. Most of these claims were made in Montreal.

Monserrat said the new law streamlines the refugee process. An important modification to the old law is the altered role of the senior immigration officer, who meets potential refugee claimants when they arrive in Canada.

Under C-68, senior immigration officers at airports and other entry points will be required to determine the eligibility of people claiming refugee status at the border.

"It gives them power in certain cases to refuse entry," said Monserrat.

Photo by Owen Egan



If refugee claimants make it past the senior immigration officer, many of them come here, to Complexe Guy-Favreau.

If the claimant is recognized as a refugee in another country, has already been denied refugee status in Canada, or is considered a public danger, he or she can be refused entry.

Monserrat said people belonging to these categories have already been heard by immigration officials.

But Pablo Altamirano, a member of Carrefour Latino-Américain, said the new law no longer gives the person arriving the benefit of the doubt.

"[The old law] recognized a person's right to be taken at their word," said Altamirano.

He is concerned that people arriving in Canada will not speak English or French and will not have a lawyer present when they first encounter the senior immigration officer.

Altamirano said the onus will be on the claimant to prove his or her credibility.

"But if you don't speak the language how do you do it?" he added.

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

Monserrat said the new system still gives the refugee claimant the benefit of the doubt. He said the law attempts to monitor who enters the country, not to reduce numbers.

"It should enable us to be more certain of our decisions," said Monserrat.

The previous law specified that an immigration officer, along with a senior immigration officer, would establish whether a person was declaring refugee status. Eligibility would be decided at the initial hearing stage by an adjudicator and a refugee board member.

The initial hearing stage has been eliminated. That means most refugee claimants will go directly from their encounter with a senior immigration officer to a formal hearing.

A screening process with a refugee hearing officer will allow claimants to skip the hearings entirely if the case is clear cut.

Senior immigration officers will also have the right to request documents and may fingerprint people arriving in Canada without identification.

Monserrat said the restrictions would prevent people from abusing the system by making double claims and collecting benefits in more than one part of the country.

Such abuses were uncovered in the summer of 1990, when claimants in Ontario and Quebec were discovered with multiple claims, collecting extra welfare cheques.

Ber Lazarus, an intake worker at Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, said the new law would limit the number of refugees entering Canada and encourage certain types of immigrants.

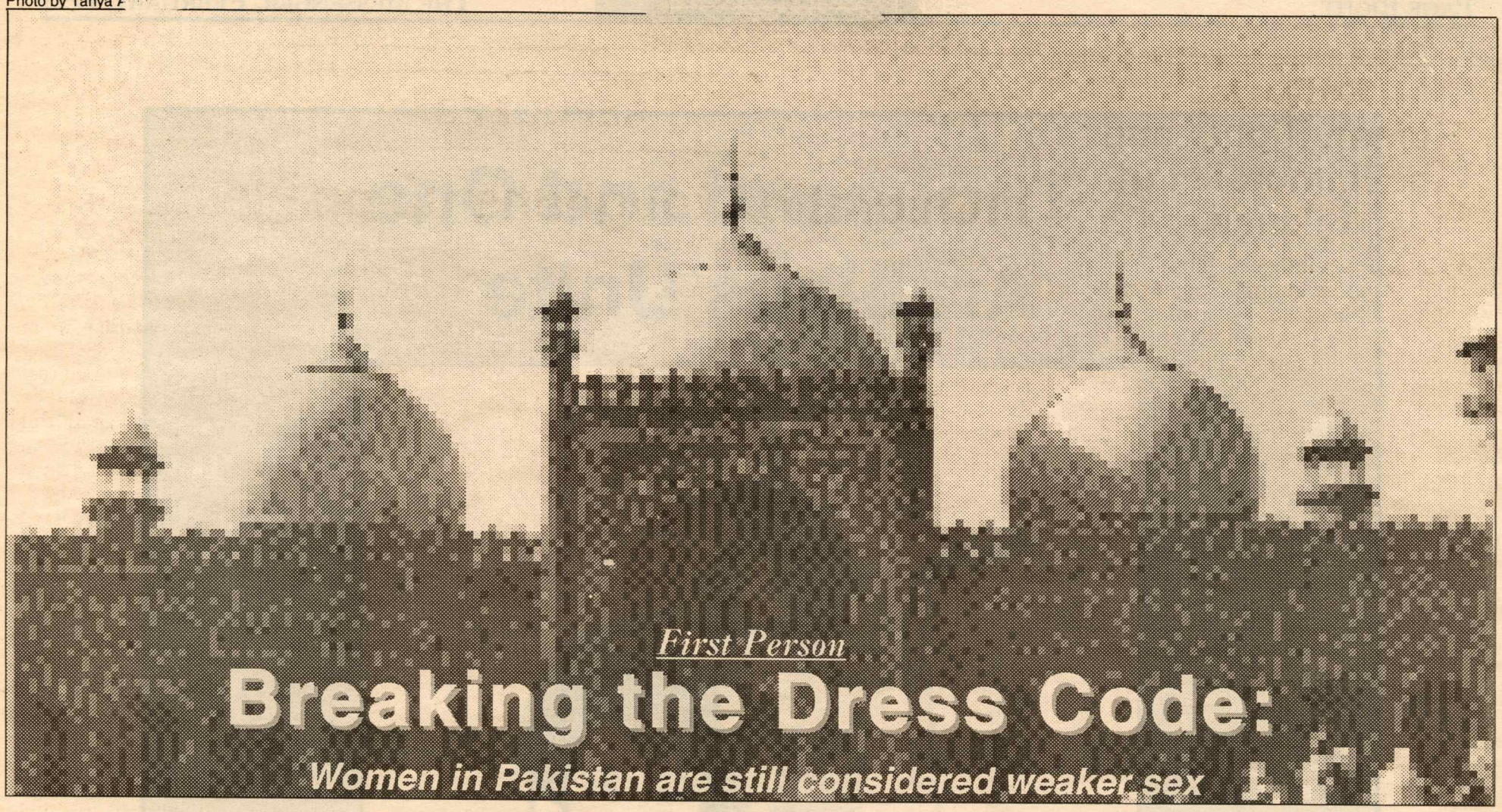
"Namely business class immigrants," added Lazarus.

"They're not streamlining but reducing the number of refugees. I think that's the basic intent of the government."

Monserrat said the last time an immigration law affecting refugees was passed to streamline the system and reduce numbers in 1989, it didn't work.

"In 1989 [the government] said the numbers would decrease by 55 per cent but they increased by 300 per cent."

Photo by Tanya A



First Person

Breaking the Dress Code:

Women in Pakistan are still considered weaker sex

BY TANYA ATHAR

My red jeans and brown hat stood out like neon signs in the dark when I disembarked at the Quaid-e-Azam airport in Karachi, Pakistan.

It wasn't just that I was wearing western clothes in an Islamic country. The big faux-pas was that I was a woman who looked like a local, and was wearing western clothes in an Islamic country. I was a 21-year-old born and raised in Canada who had come to visit the country of my roots for the winter break.

I walked out of the airport onto the open platform, feeling self-conscious and anxious. Hordes of men and boys stared at me with a mixture of curiosity, hostility and lust, and I tried to avoid eye-contact. A few were airport personnel wearing suits, but most were taxi drivers, porters, or people waiting eagerly for arrivals, and some looked as though they were just hanging around. Most of the men had moustaches, and wore neutral-colored *shalwar-kameezes* (a long baggy shirt and pants - the traditional dress of Pakistan).

Amidst the men, I saw three women all huddled together. Two were wearing black head-dresses called burkas , which covered everything except their eyes. The third woman had wrapped herself in a white sheet, which covered her head and the top half of her brightly-colored suit. I challenged their stares with my own, but they looked back at me coldly.

It was about 3:00 a.m. on December 11 and the air was

hot and sticky. It smelled like a combination of ocean fish,

garbage, pungent spices and aromatic

Photo by Tanya Athar

Pakistani dancers wearing traditional dresses

flowers.

I began searching for my relatives among the crowd of

brown faces, but didn't see them. Right away, two boys who looked about 15-years-old lunged towards me and tried to pull the luggage out of my hands.

"No," I told them, pulling my bags away, "that's all right. Besides, I have no money to pay you."

I spoke English, partly to try to justify my misfit appearance, and partly because my Urdu, at the best of times, was faltering and atrociously accented. At home in Canada, we always speak English.

It was strange to be fussed over so much, especially having come from Canada where people are more aloof. Still, had they known I wasn't going to pay them, they likely wouldn't have been so keen to help me.

I walked along the platform for a little while, the two boys hanging off my side and chattering to me amicably in garbled local dialects. Soon enough, I realized there had been a misunderstanding about my arrival date and I told the boys to take me to a phone.

I called my grandfather, who was surprised to hear my voice. He asked me if I was all right, then told me my relatives were coming to pick me up right away.

Later, my airport mishap was recounted to guests several times during the course of my holiday. Everyone laughed over it,

but at the same time solemnly thanked Allah (God) for looking

out for me - a single, young innocent woman - in what was judged to be a dangerous and trying situation. I was sad at how the circumstance was considered unsafe for single women. But at the same time, I was amused at how my relatives respected and admired me for having kept a level head.

It's unfortunate that women in Pakistan are commonly stereotyped as weaklings in need of protection, and as temptations for men's rampant sexual desires. Because Pakistan is a male-dominated society, even women in educated families are highly dependent on men in their day-to-day living. Most women in lower-class families occupy traditional roles, and are expected to be subservient, respectful and docile towards men. Non-professional women are usually referred to only as someone's wife, mother or daughter, or as a member of a particular family.

Though most women preserve their modesty through segregation and dress, some practice the customs more rigidly than others. Usually it's the illiterate women, or those from conservative sects of Islam, who exercise strict segregation (*purdah*) and wear burkas. Educated women or those from more liberal sects are more relaxed, and may cover their suits only with a long scarf (*dupatta*) or sheet

(*chadur*) in mixed company. In upper-class gatherings, some women may even feel comfortable wearing Western clothes.

Visiting the country of my roots was a vivid learning experience for me. It made me appreciate coming back to a country where personal identity and freedom are valued and the importance of the women's movement is recognized.

A Thousand and One Arabians Unite

Photo by Owen Egan

Reena Halaby belongs to the Concordia Arab Students' Association

BY LINDA GYULAI

For three days in January, a corner of the mezzanine in Concordia's Hall Building felt like an enclave of the Middle East.

The only difference was everyone was getting along.

Despite fighting between their countries, the members of the Concordia Arab Students' Association, representing 21 Arab states, got together for Arab Culture Week at the end of January. They also united in support of Iraqi civilians and Palestinian deportees.

"The annual culture week is meant to educate and slow the spread of the [negative] image of Arabs in North America," said Association treasurer Assaad Zakka.

The group displayed books, videos and food from the various countries, and featured live Arabic music.

It also circulated two petitions protesting the recent American bombing of Iraq, and the deportation of more than 400 Palestinians from Israel.

Members of the McGill Arab Students' Association started the petitions in late January. The Concordia group agreed to circulate the petitions because they involve a humanitarian issue, Zakka said.

One petition demands the Canadian government withdraw its support of American bombing missions in Iraq. It will be sent to the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Ottawa.

In December, the United States shot down an Iraqi jet fighter that violated the "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq. The zone was created by the U.S., France and Britain after the Persian Gulf War, to protect Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south from attacks by the Iraqi military. The United States bombed various sites, using a United Nations resolution against Iraq as justification.

"The air raids were missing their targets and hitting civilians, " said Viviane Zabbal from the McGill Arab Students' Association. "It isn't fair."

France, Russia and many Arab states criticized the air raids as an excessive use of force.

The other petition demands the Canadian government request an emergency meeting of the United Nations to press for the return of more than 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel on December 17. The Palestinians were accused of supporting the fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, after five Israeli soldiers were killed.

The families of the deportees are suffering because they have lost their breadwinners said Zabbal. "When there is trouble with people, you don't just kick them out. They must have a fair trial."

They have been living on a patch of land with few supplies in southeast Lebanon since December. Lebanon refused to accept the exiles, saying it does not want to become a dumping ground for people expelled by Israel.

The United Nations has called for the return of the deportees without success.

Israel allowed 17 of the Palestinians back in January. Four were ill, and Israel admitted the others were expelled by mistake.

More than 200 people have signed the petitions at universities and CEGEPs across Montreal according to Zabbal. They will also be circulated in the city's Arab community. She said the association hopes to get about 5,000 signatures before sending them to Prime Minister Mulroney, Foreign Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall, and the United Nations, later this month.

The Concordia Arab Students' Association rarely takes a political stand because its 70 members, who represent different religions, sects, countries and dialects, would never agree, said Zakka. The group usually organizes community events and offers support to new Arab students.

"People think of Arabs as one sort," said Zabbal, who was born in Kuwait. "But they are very different. Arabs don't know much about each other while they are in the Middle East. But here they can meet and learn about one another through the [student] Associations."

Selon John P. Humphrey

L'ONU manque de moyens d'agir

PAR JEANNE CADORETTE

L'Organisation des Nations Unies ne peut seule assurer la protection des droits humains dans le monde, mais elle doit tout de même en prendre l'initiative, selon John P. Humphrey, professeur de droit international à l'Université McGill et l'un des rédacteurs de la Déclaration Universelle des droits de l'homme.

Selon Humphrey, le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU ne peut autoriser l'usage de la force qu'en cas d'agression d'un pays contre un autre. Un gouvernement qui viole les droits humains de ses propres citoyens ne commet pas un tel acte d'agression.

LE DROIT D'INTERVENIR

Il ajoute cependant qu'en signant des conventions internationales visant à protéger les droits de l'homme, les pays signataires accordent implicitement aux autres états le droit d'intervenir dans leurs affaires internes. Le droit international prévoit même une procédure de plainte par un état contre un autre.

"Mais les gouvernements sont peu enclins à amener d'autres gouvernements devant un tribunal international, spécialement s'il s'agit d'un gouvernement avec lequel ils ont de bonnes relations".

LA VIOLATION DES DROITS

Selon Humphrey, l'Assemblée Générale de l'ONU peut condamner la violation des droits humains dans un pays tel l'Afrique du Sud, mais elle n'a aucun moyen d'obliger l'état à changer sa conduite envers ses citoyens.

"Ma génération a pu établir les standards des droits à respecter dans la Déclaration universelle et les conventions subséquentes. La vôtre devra mettre en place des mécanismes pour assurer le respect des droits sans compter uniquement sur l'influence de l'opinion publique mondiale".

Il ajoute toutefois que la condamnation par l'opinion publique est souvent la seule sanction qui pousse les états à respecter les droits de leurs citoyens.

Humphrey indique que la Charte des Nations Unies interdit l'intervention armée dans les affaires internes d'un état. Il souligne que, de toute façon, seuls les états puissants comme les États-Unis, peuvent agir militairement en invoquant des raisons humanitaires.

Prenant l'exemple de l'invasion américaine de la Grenade, il ajoute que le déploiement de force est parfois superflu.

"En fait, s'ils (les Américains) avaient envoyé 20 policiers, ils auraient pu tout régler".

Selon Humphrey, les récentes interventions de l'ONU risquent de miner sa crédibilité alors que ses moyens d'agir sont déjà faibles.

"Dans certains pays, on commence à dire que les Etats-Unis se servent de l'ONU comme instrument de leur propre politique étrangère".

L'ONU DOIT INTERVENIR

Humphrey ajoute que, malgré ses faiblesses, c'est l'ONU, et non certains états puissants, qui doit intervenir.

Il conclut cependant que la responsabilité de protéger les droits humains est l'affaire de tous.

"Je dois protéger mon frère peu importe s'il habite en dehors des frontières du Canada. Si quelqu'un se trouve dans un camp de concentration quelque part dans le monde, j'ai l'obligation morale de faire tout ce que je peux pour lui".

An Assist for Israeli Hockey

Montrealer David Lisbona collects equipment for Israel's upstart hockey association

BY LAWRENCE NYVEEN

Only eight years after the country's first ice rink opened, Israel has a chance to send a hockey team to the 1994 Winter Olympics. And Côte-St-Luc's David Lisbona hopes to keep Israel a contender for many years to come.

Lisbona heads the Canadian Friends of the Israeli Ice Hockey Association (CFIIHA), a group which wants to make sure the Israeli team's shot at the next Winter Olympics is not a one-time affair.

The group is based in Montreal and has branches in Toronto and Ottawa. Although there is no formal membership, the association has a mailing list of about 35 people.

The CFIIHA mainly organizes collection drives for used hockey equipment. It collects at Samuel Moskovitch Arena in Côte-St-Luc and the Dollard Civic Centre in Dollard-des-Ormeaux. Both municipalities have large Jewish populations.

Lisbona, 23, finds the time despite law/MBA studies at McGill, radio work at CKUT, and hockey in the Côte-St-Luc Young Adults' Hockey League.

"I'm a hockey freak and an Israel freak," he explained. "So this is the best of both worlds coming together."

Lisbona founded the CFIIHA after a June 1991 trip to Israel. While there, he and two other Montrealers, Robyn Heitner and Larry Markowitz, attended a talk by journalist Paul Shindman. Shindman, a former Canadian, is also president of the Israeli Ice Hockey and Figure Skating Association (IIHFSA). The three spoke with Shindman afterwards and pledged to collect hockey equipment back home for the IIHFS.

At first, Shindman was cautiously enthusiastic, Lisbona said. The Israeli sent newspaper clippings, yet Lisbona felt he never really seemed to expect much.

But during their first drive in October 1991, the Montreal trio collected 16 bags of equipment. Shindman was ecstatic and wrote to Lisbona: "I'm really thrilled about all the work you've done! Fantastic!!!" With Shindman's cooperation, the CFIIHA was born.

"My goal is to get people here to really feel a part of [Israeli hockey]," Lisbona said.

Since its inception, the association has collected dozens of bags of equipment. The biggest problem, said Lisbona, is sending the equipment overseas.

"The Israeli consulate says they can't help, El Al (Israel's airline) says they can't help, Zim container service can't help. They say there are security problems and that they're already overloaded. The sport doesn't have the exposure it needs. They don't want to be hassled with it."

It's not life and death, it's ice hockey

Hy Lerner, El Al's cargo manager at Mirabel airport, explained that Lisbona had asked for free delivery of the equipment. "I gave him our rates at a bit of a discount. We're not a charitable organization. Charity is charity and business is business. It's not life and death, it's ice hockey. It's not a dire situation."

As a result, the CFIIHA sends bags to Israel with tourists. El Al allows each passenger to take two pieces of luggage. Since younger travellers often take only one bag, the association approaches youth groups and schools that organize trips, looking for people to deliver a bag of equipment to the IIHFSA.

The used equipment eventually finds its way to Israel's four undersized rinks where it stocks the house leagues Lisbona calls the future of Israeli hockey. Currently, only one league plays regularly, one home team on each of the four existing rinks. The quality of play compares with Canadian house leagues.

Although collection drives are the CFIIHA's most public activities, the group is involved in others. Lisbona recently met with Shindman and Gideon Lee, coach of Israel's national team.

"We discussed having Israeli teams tour in Montreal and Toronto and billeting younger players while they go to hockey camp here," Lisbona said. "It will help establish the sport in Israel and open up new horizons."

It's not lucrative right now, but it will be in the future

Right now, most players fall into one of three categories: Israelis who grew up abroad, North American immigrants in Israel, and Eastern European émigrés. Two native North Americans and eight Eastern Europeans are members of the national team, while native Israelis make up the balance. The team was formed in January 1990 and finished fourth at a Pool C tournament in Johannesburg last March, behind the Spanish champions, Greece, and host South Africa. On the international hockey ladder, Pool C is two rungs below Canada, Russia, and other hockey powers in Pool A.

Another Pool C tournament will be held March 1993 in Slovenia. Israel defeated Greece and Turkey in November to secure an invitation. The International Olympic Committee said it will invite the winner of this tournament to compete in the 1994 Winter Olympics. Israel would have to defeat Spain, South Africa, Hungary, and two national teams from the CIS to advance to the Olympics. Lisbona admits it's not likely, but thinks the Israelis will finish high in the standings.

Lisbona looks forward to the planned construction of an Olympic-sized rink in Tel Aviv. "Financially, we're two-thirds of the way there. We want investors for investment, rather than charity. It's not lucrative right now, but it will be in the future. Once it's built, we would like to host a NHL exhibition game, like they did in England last year. There are three Jewish owners in the NHL so we think it's a possibility."

London's Wembley Arena, where the Montreal Canadiens and the Chicago Blackhawks played September 11-12, 1992, holds 9,000 fans. The Tel Aviv rink is projected to hold from 1,000 to 6,000, but Lisbona doesn't think a small arena will keep NHL teams from visiting.

Lisbona is disappointed the arena won't be built in time for this summer's Maccabiah games, the so-called Jewish Olympics, but is convinced ice hockey will be an event in the 1997 competition.

"I always said if Israel had hockey, it would be one more reason to make aliyah (move to Israel). Now I'm working towards the day when it will happen."

Give us this day our daily bomb

Canadian Poets Write About the Persian Gulf War

BY RONALD ZAJAC

Book Review

A Discord of Flags,
Edited by Steven Heighton, Peter Ormshaw, Michael Redhill

In the days before laser-guided missiles and CNN, poets celebrated war and the virtues of battlefield heroes. But today there are few Canadian poets willing to sing praises for Operation Desert Storm, the war against Iraq waged by the U.S.-led coalition in early 1991.

A Discord of Flags is a collection of responses to the Gulf War by poets from across Canada. It contains 60 poems, and none of them speak favorably about the Gulf War, or war in general.

The anthology was first published in February, 1991, while the air-raids and Scud attacks were still ongoing. This second, expanded edition came out one year after the war. And now, with the second anniversary of the war's beginning gone by and the bombs still falling, it is as timely as ever.

Discord contains works by such well-known poets as Erin Mouré and Miriam Waddington, as well as pieces by less-known authors. Like all such collections, it is a mixture of the sublime and the mundane. Because these poets mostly use free verse, they are not bound by traditional forms of metre or rhythm, and are obliged to build the right structure for their point.

Accomplished poets use free verse to their advantage. For instance, in Carl James Grindley's "Winter's Night," words and rhythm combine to produce a reflective pause in the midst of violence:

in the moment between blow back and reload there is magic
in the narrow hole between shell ejection
and vertical compensation
is true contemplation
upon the sand
upon the stones of the desert
upon peoples here and everywhere the same

Grindley's poem uses the silence between lines effectively, giving the reader a touch of the vertigo felt "at twenty-five thousand feet."

But other poets abuse their freedom. Alice Burdick's "From Spiralbound" eschews verse completely, using two blocks of prose one might call "paragraphs." Prose-poems can be interesting too, if they have something to say. But Burdick's protest is pure self-indulgence:

I'll not be Queen of the nodding men. My game isn't their game. Their game / is full of cologne bottles and runny shit. Their game is golf gone up the hill / and right up the fucking tree. Not even close to the sun...

Burdick's path—pseudo-hippie cheekiness and vague spiritualism—has been traveled before, and the prose form makes the old ride even more tiresome.

The poetic freedom of Discord extends to other subject matter as well. Not all of these poems are about the Gulf War, though all are written in response to it. George Eliot Clarke's poem laments the death of Indira Gandhi, blending Hindu mythology with elemental images in a final condemnation of human violence. And Michael Redhill's "Canada" is a Holocaust poem, which informs us parenthetically that "'Canada' was the name given to the sorting depot at Auschwitz/ Birkenau."

The poets also write about the First World War, Vietnam, and the Cold War. In Lesley Anne Bourne's "If There's Time," a woman remembers her father, a city official, who had a place reserved for himself (minus his family) at a bomb shelter:

Back then I know nothing—
he comes home and steps
over toys and dolls
at five-fifteen as if
no one can change
his mind about where
he'll try to get to
if there's time."

The book's diversity is its strength, but the editors might have used a bit more imagination in organizing it. The authors appear in alphabetical order, an arbitrary arrangement which takes no advantage of the interplay between responses and verse forms.

Though sometimes tedious and at other times muddled (as in Michael Holmes's postmodern tilt-a-whirl called "Sleep of the Jihad"), Discord is a worthwhile read. As the editors suggest, poetry is a "sanctuary from the mass media." At its best, it sends readers back to the roots of the words which form their world-view. And if desperation, pity or outrage won't do, one can always respond to the renewed threats in the Gulf with irony, like Di Brandt did in "Last Night I Became:" *give us this day / our daily bomb.*

A Discord of Flags is paid for by its contributors. Proceeds from its sale will go to the Red Cross and the Canadian Literacy Fund.

Non-violent film festival

Montreal Women's Centre says no to gratuitous violence

BY SONIA DESMARAIS

Film

MONTREAL CINEMA SCENE

The Montreal Women's Centre celebrated its 20th anniversary this week with "a different vision.

"We have all these festivals in Montreal; comedy, jazz, film," said the director of the women's centre, Elaine Teofilovici. "I thought what we needed was a non-violence festival."

So, last September, the centre set about organizing the first Annual Non-Violent Film Festival.

The 10-day festival, which ran Jan. 21-31, played at four Montreal universities and the centre itself.

The four universities, Concordia, McGill, École Polytechnique and L'Université du Québec à Montréal, each chose their own movies based on the centre's criteria: no gratuitous violence, no degrading scenes about women and no sexist messages.

The centre targeted universities because young adults are the largest consumers of videos, says Teofilovici, and the centre was hoping to make them sensitive to what is coming out of the film industry today.

"The movie industry is now surpassing itself in terms of violence," she said from her St. Urbain Street office. "We wanted to send a message to producers that people are fed up with the excess of violence and degradation."

"As consumers we have the right to expect more quality."

The solution must come from the consumer, not the producers, said the president of Concordia University's Communication Guild, Jennifer Robertson.

"We could have a non-violent film festival every week, but as long as people pay to see violent films, they will continue to be produced," she said.

The Guild ran Concordia's films Jan. 23-24, and the turnout grew as the weekend progressed, said Robertson. By the Sunday evening showing of the movie Howard's End, Concordia had over-filled its 120-seat theatre.

Some of the more popular films included When Harry Met Sally, Steel Magnolias and Howard's End.

McGill University and L'UQUAM showed their movies on the weekend of Jan. 30-31. Concordia's Communications Guild, said Robertson, was hoping to expose students to the high quality and entertainment value of non-violent films so they can make a more informed choice.

"I don't think it's responsible to demand censorship. It's the consumer that must make the change," said Robertson.

This is exactly the kind of positive approach that the pragmatic director of the women's centre likes. "I would rather promote behaviors and causes, than to be more radical, accusing or negativistic," said Teofilovici.

The festival is typical of the projects the centre likes to take on, she said. It involves many people in something and touches on issues in a subtle way.

Almost all of the centre's programs are geared towards encouraging self-help, said Teofilovici. Last year the centre helped over 40,000 women. Ten thousand were redirected to outside organizations by the centre's Front Line information and referral service, but the rest found their answers at the centre.

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